

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application of Bean et al. Art Unit 3761  
Serial No. 10/620,142  
Filed July 15, 2003  
Confirmation No. 8474  
For ABSORBENT ARTICLE HAVING A STRETCHABLE REINFORCEMENT MEMBER  
Examiner Jacqueline F. Stephens

January 22, 2007

**RESPONSE TO FINAL OFFICE ACTION**

TO THE COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS,

SIR:

Claims 20-27, 29-43, 51-65 and 70 are currently pending for consideration. The following remarks are responsive to the final Office action dated November 22, 2006.

**Claim 20**

Claim 20 is directed to an absorbent structure comprising an absorbent member that is at least partially made of fibers, and a reinforcing member at least partially embedded in the absorbent member for maintaining the structural integrity of the absorbent member. The reinforcing member is comprised of a first set of substantially parallel strands and a second set of strands that cross the first set of strands at junctions in a non-orthogonal relationship thereby defining openings in the reinforcing member. At least some of the fibers of the absorbent member extend through the openings in the reinforcing member and are entangled with other fibers of the absorbent member.